

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Allow Fishing Access in Campgrounds at Waco Lake

The U.S. Army corps of Engineers collects camping fees and facility fees in Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas. Typically, Corps park operations have separated day use visitors and campers to accommodate their specific needs and type of recreational experience. However, due to public interest and demand for campground areas to be open to fishermen, an alternative operational plan has been developed for campgrounds at Waco Lake beginning on December 22, 2005.

Day Use Areas: Park operation will continue as they have in the past. Members of the public could pay the daily facility fee or purchase a \$30 annual pass to cover their entrance to launch boats, use swimming beaches, and other recreational activities covered by the facility fee. The annual pass is valid for one year from date of purchase. Entrance and exit of the areas would be in accordance with the park's posted hours.

Campgrounds: In those areas designated as campgrounds, members of the public may purchase and use the \$30 annual pass to access those areas only to fish. If users actually occupy a campsite and/or use the facilities available (electricity, showers, etc), they would need to pay the normal camping fee charged at the campground. Visitors would have fishing access in accordance with the posted opening and closing hours for that campground. Seven day per week access will be allowed, other than on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays of major holiday weekends, or when campground occupancy is at 75% or greater. Park Attendants and Park Rangers may still control access at any time due to park conditions, crowds and/or special events.